SCHOOL PROFILE

Upper School | 2019–2020

LA JOLLA
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
Inspiring Greatness for a Better World

THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

La Jolla Country Day School (LJCDS) traces its beginnings to the Balmer School, founded in 1926 by Louise C. Balmer. A small cottage on Coast Boulevard served as the schoolhouse for the four children who attended the primary school that first year. Today, LJCDS stands on a 24-acre campus empowering students age 3 through Grade 12 with a challenging curriculum preparing and positioning students of character to excel academically, athletically and artistically. The school serves a diverse student body of nearly 1,125 drawn from varied communities of San Diego County, the United States and the world. In 2019-2020, LJCDS awarded $4.8 million in financial assistance.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The academic requirements for graduation include a minimum of 20 units, each representing a year's study in the following subject areas:

English: 4 years
Math: 3 years (4 recommended)
Science: 3 years (4 recommended)
Social Science: 3 years (4 recommended)
World Languages: 2 years*
Fine Arts: 1 year
Athletics: 4 seasons
Electives: 3 years
Community Service: Specific requirements by grade.

**must complete through level 3 of a single language*

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The school mentors students to become lifelong service leaders who act with honor and integrity. Upper School students demonstrate community engagement and service learning by participating in a variety of service opportunities both on campus and in local and global communities. Our model provides a foundation for giving back beginning with school-sponsored opportunities in partnership with local nonprofits and culminating in independent service projects and reflection in the senior year.

ACADEMICS

All LJCDS courses require critical thinking, creativity and collaboration as well as self-reliance as students engage with challenges of global importance to make the world better. Our schedule emphasizes depth over breadth and the creation of habits of mind. Honors courses allow students to drive their own learning through independent engagement with texts and other materials outside of class so that students can delve even more deeply into the application of course concepts. Advanced Placement courses follow the College Board guidelines and prepare students for the AP exam. Honors and AP courses are offered in all disciplines; courses that represent a second year of study are designated by the term "Advanced" (i.e., Advanced Robotics).

HONORS COURSE OFFERINGS

Advanced Application Development
Advanced Design Thinking to Open Entrepreneurship
Advanced Independent Filmmaking
Advanced Innovation Technology Studio
Advanced Photography
Advanced Robotics
Algebra II with Trigonometry
Band
Chemistry
Design Thinking to Open Entrepreneurship
Digital UX Design
Francais Intensive
French Heritage
Geometry
Innovation Technology Studio
Linear Algebra *(Prerequisite: AP Calculus)*
Madrigal Singers
Mandarin III, IV
Movies and Culture
Multivariable Calculus *(Prerequisite: AP Calculus)*
Neuroscience *(Prerequisite: AP Biology)*
Orchestra
Percussion and World Drumming
Precalculus BC
Production Design and Management
Spanish Intensive

ADVANCED PLACEMENT OFFERINGS

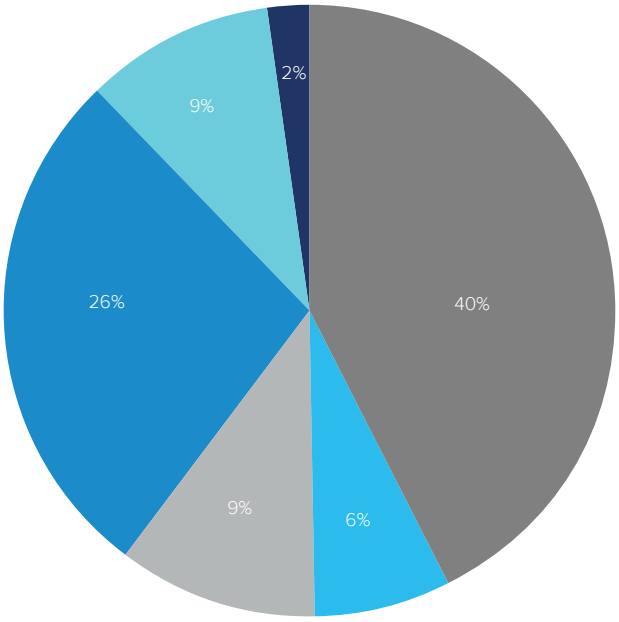
Art History
Biology
Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Chemistry
Chinese Language and Culture
Computer Science A
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
French Language and Culture
Music Theory
Physics 2
Psychology
Spanish Language and Culture
Spanish Literature and Culture
Statistics
Studio Art: 2D Design
Studio Art: Drawing
Studio Art: 3D
U.S. Government
U.S History

COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2016-2019

AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts
Arizona State University (2)
Arts University Bournemouth
Babson College (2)
Barnard College
Beloit College
Berklee College of Music (2)
Boise State University
Boston College
Boston University (2)
Brown University (3)
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
California Baptist University
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
California Northstate University College of Health Sciences (2)
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (3)
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, San Marcos
Carnegie Mellon University (4)
Chapman University (11)
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Colorado College (2)
Columbia University (6)
Cornell University (5)
Creighton University
Dartmouth College (2)
Davidson College (3)
DePaul University (2)
DigiPen Institute of Technology
Dixie State University
Dordt College
Duke University
Eckerd College
Emerson College (2)
Emory University
Endicott College
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, San Diego
Fordham University
Georgetown University (5)
Gettysburg College (2)
Harvard College
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Howard University
Indiana University at Bloomington
IUT de Brest
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Juniata College
Kalamazoo College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University (2)
Loyola Marymount University (12)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)
Miami University, Oxford (3)
Michigan State University
MiraCosta College
New York University (15)
Northeastern University (9)
Northern Arizona University (3)
Northwestern University (9)
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences (2)
Occidental College
Pace University, New York City
Pitzer College (2)
Point Loma Nazarene University
Pomona College (2)
Princeton University (4)
Providence College
Purdue University (2)
Reed College (2)
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Mary's College of California
Salve Regina University
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego State University (10)
San Francisco State University
Santa Barbara City College
Santa Clara University (6)
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Scripps College (3)
Soka University of America
Southern Methodist University (3)
Southwestern College
Southwestern University
Stanford University (3)
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University (4)
Technologico de Monterrey
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University (3)
The American University of Paris (2)
The College of Wooster
The George Washington University (2)
The New School-All Divisions
The University of Alabama (2)
The University of Arizona (9)
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Iowa
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2)
The University of Texas, Austin (2)
Trinity College
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University (3)
Tulane University (6)
University of Birmingham
University of California, Berkeley (16)
University of California, Davis (11)
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles (12)
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego (11)
University of California, Santa Barbara (6)
University of California, Santa Cruz (4)
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder (7)
University of Denver (3)
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Kansas
University of La Verne
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami (4)
University of Michigan (3)
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of New Mexico
University of Oregon (9)
University of Pennsylvania 5)
University of Pittsburgh (3)
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands (6)
University of San Diego (15)
University of San Francisco (3)
University of Southern California (17)
University of the Pacific
University of Toronto
University of Washington (9)
University of Wisconsin, Madison (7)
Vanderbilt University (3)
Vassar College
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis (2)
Wellesley College (2)
Wesleyan University
Western Colorado University
Western Washington University
Westmont College
Wheaton College IL
Willamette University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University (5)

COLLEGE REGIONS

- California
- Northeast
- West
- Midwest
- South
- International or Gap Year



MEDIAN STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Class of 2019	*Mid 50% range*
ACT	28-33
SAT	1210-1490
SAT EBRW	620-720
SAT MATH	630-770

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

ARTS

The Upper School arts program boasts over 27 elective offerings in the areas of visual arts, film study and filmmaking, choral and instrumental music, theater and technical theater, and dance. Co-curricular activities include student-produced plays, a musical theater production, a drama production, an after-school Glee Club, a drumline and a marching band. Students showcase their work in art galleries, concerts and dance shows on campus and in the San Diego community. Music groups participate in festival adjudications nationally, and the choirs have performed internationally throughout Europe and Asia.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

From kindergarten to Grade 12, students gain a mastery of coding theory and principles through the computer science program. In Lower School, students learn logic fundamentals and text-based coding. Middle School students learn conditional function and algorithm design, and Upper School students study object-oriented programming, data science and VR and 3D. Real-world problems are integrated into the curriculum to better equip students to adapt to the ever-changing landscape and add immediate value to the program.

DESIGN AND INNOVATION

Staffed with industry professionals, the design and innovation program not only teaches students how and when to use the latest technology but also how to identify "the right" problems to solve. Students learn how to use hand and machine tools; operate computer-controlled machinery, including 3D printers and laser cutters; build robotics and automation; design with the latest in technology tools; and practice iterative prototyping techniques. Students also perform ethnographic research where they observe and conduct interviews to identify the problems that people don't know that they have. The curriculum culminates in the presentation of a yearlong project with a corporation. Past partnerships included CamelBak, a world leader in hydration systems and Ottobock, a German-based prosthetics company.

ENGLISH SEMINARS

In collegiate-level literary courses, English IV students study the human experience from a myriad of perspectives. They select one seminar each semester from offerings like Memoir; Murder and Mayhem; World Beat: Nigeria; Gender Studies in Literature; Creative Writing; Dystopian Fiction; The Literature and People of California.

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

The science department develops scientific literacy through inquiry, exploration and application, and the understanding of the interconnectedness of science, mathematics and technology. All the electives build on the mastery obtained in the core science sequence of physics, chemistry and biology, and students may choose electives such as Honors Neuroscience; biotechnology; marine biology; AP Chemistry; AP Physics 2; robotics; and Oceans: San Diego. Experimentation and research are emphasized, and students are encouraged to ask questions and dive deeply into these advanced disciplines to develop a scientific lens for the world.

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

The Center for Excellence in Citizenship (CEC) develops unique opportunities for students, faculty and parents to engage in the vital work of local, national and global citizenship, focusing on the fundamental importance of human dignity in all interactions. CEC supports civic engagement and civil discourse, galvanizing students to think about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to be thoughtful participants in their communities.

DIGNITY EDUCATION

In partnership with Donna Hicks, Ph.D., author of the bestselling book *Dignity: The Essential Role It Plays in Resolving Conflict* and an associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, LJCDS is committed to dignity education. The 10 essential elements of dignity, which include acceptance of identity, inclusion and fairness are the core values of the school. By weaving the practice of treating people with dignity into the fabric of school life, students graduate as scholars of character. The school's work on dignity was recognized in Dr. Hicks's recent book, *Leading with Dignity*.

ETHICS COUNCIL

As a learning community, where character is developed, the school applies strong emphasis on core principles such as honor, integrity, citizenship and mutual trust. The Ethics Council is made up of a group of students and educators who help foster and maintain a sound environment for educational and personal growth. Violations of school values are referred to the Ethics Council, which recommend disciplinary action to the head of the Upper School. The goal is to encourage appropriate student behavior and discourage acts detrimental to the welfare of the community. LJCDS believes in fostering an environment in which a student can learn that mistakes happen.

FLEX TIME

Flex Time is a period built into the academic schedule that gives students time to engage in thoughtful, intellectual exploration of themes and experiences that do not fit within the traditional academic curriculum. Flex Time supports student-directed learning and encourages students to create activities they wish to pursue, guided by student or adult mentors from campus and beyond who are passionate experts. Examples of the 60 plus activities for 2018–2019 included Screening and Scoring Films, Cryptography, Mobile Game Design and SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere).

"OVERHEARD" BY THE CLASS OF 2019

"Through music, we help spread joy to others within and outside of our own community, and this to me is the most important aspect in life, making people happy."

–**Isabel Miralles** '19, arts assembly speech

"...opportunities aren't just handed to you, and they're not forced on you. You have to take advantage of them, otherwise they'll just slip by."

—**Newland Zhang** '19, senior spotlight article

"I'M NOT GOING TO CHOOSE A CAREER PATH OR A WAY OF LIVING THE REST OF MY LIFE BASED ON THE STUFF THAT I'M GOOD AT BUT BASED ON SOMEWHERE WHERE I SEE NEED."

–**Raquel Ramirez** '19, in a video interview

"People here really care about you, and they want you to grow, and they want you to learn from your experiences."

–**Divya Chunduru** '19, in a video interview

"YOU CAN BETTER THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND YOU AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE BY COMING OUT OF YOUR SHELL."

–**Ryan Langborg** '19, *1926* alumni magazine

"Cheerful thoughts bring us laughter and hope, while pessimism halts us from moving forward. I am inspired by optimism, and I lead by bringing out the best in people."

–**Yuqi Yang** '19, *1926* alumni magazine

"The people at LJCDS gave me something to look forward to in the morning and something to miss in the evenings."

–**Dakota Hernadez** '19, lifer student Q&A

"I would say that as a lifer at LJCDS, all my schooling leading up to this has been teaching me to decipher what's right and what's wrong and to question and challenge the way things are, especially if they can be improved. And now my high school experience has taught me to apply this knowledge and go the extra mile to actually do something with what I learned. "

–**Navid Massarat** '19, *Country Day Connection* newsletter

COLLEGE COUNSELING TEAM

ASSISTANT HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL FOR STUDENT LIFE AND COLLEGE COUNSELING
David Jenkins | 858-453-3440 x221 | djenkins@ljcds.org

CO-DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING
Piotr Dabrowski
858-453-3440 x280
pdabrowski@ljcds.org

CO-DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING
Damien Fatongia
858-453-3440 x127
dfatongia@ljcds.org

CO-DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING
Valencia Valentine Hamman
858-453-3440 x145
vhamman@ljcds.org

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE ADMISSION SERVICES
Ken Magid
858-453-3440 x284
kmagid@ljcds.org

ATHLETIC LIAISON FOR COLLEGE COUNSELING
Terri Bamford
858-453-3440 x233
tbamford@ljcds.org

COLLEGE COUNSELING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
May Vukotich
858-453-3440 x308
mvukotich@ljcds.org

SCHOOL CODE (CEEB): 051333